

MINUTES OF THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE LOS ALTOS CITY HALL-COMMUNITY CHAMBERS, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA

PRESENT: Wes Brinsfield (Chair), Jim Fenton (Vice-Chair), Suzanne Ambiel, Chris Hlavka (departed at 8:00 pm), Bill Crook, Richard Baer, Cedric Novenario (Staff Liaison)

ABSENT: Bill Sheppard

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Minutes

On a motion by Suzanne Ambiel, seconded by Chris Hlavka, the minutes for the Regular Meeting on May 28, 2014 item is approved. Passed 4-0. 2-abstain (Jim Fenton, Rick Baer)

On a motion by Suzanne Ambiel, seconded by Rick Baer, the minutes for the Special Meeting on June 12, 2014 item is approved as amended. Passed 5-0.

2. Commercial Design Review Expansion for 4700 El Camino Real

Planning staff and the applicant provided a presentation and overview of the proposed expansion and tenant improvements to 4700 El Camino Real. The proposed expansion would bring the total square footage to 8,355 from 4,723 square feet.

The BPAC provided comments for consideration which include:

- Re-locate Class I Bike storage in the back to a safer location
- Additional Class II Bike Racks in the front
- Enhanced crosswalk treatment, crossing Sherwood
- Bulb-out the southwest corner of El Camino and Sherwood
- Concern about utility poles in path of travel and sidewalk clearance
- Realign ADA ramps to be in line with the path of travel

There was one public comment for this item. Jim Wing submitted public comment through email and addressed these issues to the BPAC. See attached.

On a motion by Suzanne Ambiel, seconded by Chris Hlavka the item is approved with the following to be considered for inclusion:

- Realign ADA ramp with path of pedestrian travel at the intersection of Sherwood/El Camino Real
- Bulb-out the southwest corner of El Camino and Sherwood

- Investigate lateral clearance of utility pole and guy wire on sidewalk for pedestrian and bike access
- Reconsider location of Class I storage

Passed 5-0, 1 abstain (Bill Crook)

3. 2040 County Expressway Plan

County Staff provided a presentation and overview of the County Expressway Plan and provided a summary of the Complete Streets element and its applicability to the County Expressway Plan.

4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Status Application

Staff informed the Commission of the deadlines and application requirements to obtain Bike and Pedestrian Friendly Status from the League of American Bicyclists and Walk Friendly Communities. Staff requested a subcommittee be formed to assist staff in completing the application. Commissioners Bill Crook and Jim Fenton volunteered as subcommittee members. Commissioner Ambiel will join this subcommittee once her duties on the project inventory subcommittee are complete.

On a motion by Rick Baer, seconded by Suzanne Ambiel, this item passes 5-0. (Commissioner Chris Hlavka not present)

5. BPAC Calendar

Staff presented the revised BPAC Calendar and provided overview into the upcoming meetings potential agenda items.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Monthly Staff Reports

Staff liaison updated Commission on related City Projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wes Brinsfield adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Public Comment

BPAC Chairman Brinsfield,

Subject: BPAC 6/25/14 Meeting Agenda Item 2, 4700 El Camino Redevelopment

I support this development and would like to request changes to corner sidewalk that will improve pedestrian visibility, eliminate Sherwood sidewalk “pinch points” and insure corner sidewalk meets ADA requirements.

Sherwood receives heavy cut-through traffic from southbound San Antonio to eastbound El Camino from drivers avoiding congestion at San Antonio / El Camino intersection. Sherwood cut-through traffic approaches El Camino at moderately high speeds and sometimes only slows down while making right turn. Many drivers do not see El Camino westbound pedestrians at Sherwood corner because their attention is on El Camino traffic. A three feet corner pedestrian bulb out with compliant ADA ramp is required to insure pedestrian visibility. Bulb-out is needed to mitigate extra-large diameter power pole limiting visibility of pedestrians entering crosswalk. Bulb-out will also encourage drivers to stop before making right turn. There is room for bulb-out and still have 11 feet wide Sherwood travel lanes.

Development landscape drawing shows three new street trees [Zelkova Serrata] located in sidewalk along Sherwood. Each of these trees cause a sidewalk “pinch point” and make it hard for pedestrians to walk with a friend or pass someone while carrying shopping bags. Sidewalk width at “pinch point” is well below minimum of 5 feet required by Sherwood Master Plan and other Los Altos retail sidewalk standards like First Street Streetscape. I recommend to two options:

- A. Eliminate center tree and “wiggle” sidewalk at two trees near driveways to meet 5 feet wide standard. Examples of successful sidewalk “wiggles” at 2nd / Edith, Pepper / San Antonio, and Lyell / Tyndall.
- B. Setback thirty feet long building extension by 12 inches to increase sidewalk width to 5 feet at tree “pinch point” and “wiggle” sidewalk as noted in A.

Drawings do not show existing electrical power poles located near both front and rear Sherwood driveways. Two planned new trees near driveways are in conflict with power poles. Zelkova Serrata is a tall [98 feet] deciduous tree with short trunk and spreading branches. This tree is not a good choice for directly under high voltage power lines.

Sherwood Triangle and all of San Antonio / El Camino are in a transition stage with the addition almost 1000 living units either finished, under construction, or in planning. Many people who live there are finding that walking is safer, faster, and easy to get to restaurants or stores. Pedestrian traffic is going to dramatically increase and changes I have recommended will help make Los Altos sidewalks safe and enjoyable walking to this new store.

Jim Wing, Milverton Road, Los Altos